

1,000 TROOPS SIGN PETITION JUSTICE MARCH

Heroes rally against IRA 'witch-hunt'

By **MATT WILKINSON**,
LYNN DAVIDSON and
TESS DE LA MARE

MORE than 1,000 ex-soldiers marched on Downing Street to demand the PM abandon a "witch-hunt" against them.

Hundreds of Northern Ireland veterans are being probed over all 302 killings by British troops during the Troubles.

Yet 156 IRA terrorists were freed under the 1998 Good Friday Agree-



Voice... vets
in Whitehall



Heroes... with letter for PM

ment – so The Sun led a campaign to halt the witch-hunt.

Among Saturday's protesters, many wearing berets and medals, was Dennis Hutchings.

He faces trial this

year accused of the 1974 attempted murder of a man with learning difficulties.

Mr Hutchings, 75, left, of Torpoint, Cornwall, was held in a dawn raid in 2015 and put in a Belfast cell for four days before being charged.

Hundreds of others are still being probed. But Mr

Hutchings, who suffers from chronic kidney disease, called for "a cut-off point".

He said: "It's a disgrace to chase pensioners over events more than 40 years ago."

The rally was organised by campaign group Justice for Northern Ireland Veterans.

They delivered a letter call-

ing on Theresa May to introduce a statute of limitations to curtail the prosecutions.

Northern Ireland Secretary James Brokenshire later admitted the probe is "disproportionately" focusing on the police and Army.

matt.wilkinson@the-sun.co.uk
RAF backs Johnny gong — Page 18



MP Collins ... 'threat'

Web duo face fake news call

By **LYNN DAVIDSON**

MPs will ask Google and Facebook to create tools to help readers and viewers identify fake news as part of a new inquiry.

The Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee launched a probe as the volume of untrue stories from websites and other sources soared.

Committee chair Damian Collins said the inquiry was prompted by reports that US election voters were fed "propaganda and untruths".

He said the trend was "a threat to democracy".

Mr Collins added: "Consumers should be given tools to help them assess the origin and likely veracity of stories they read online." Details of how to participate in the inquiry will be on the committee's website today.

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Sturgeon slap after EU moan

NICOLA Sturgeon was slapped down by the PM yesterday after she urged her to "heed the voice of Scotland" in Brexit talks.

The First Minister wants Scotland to remain in the single market, due to the majority Remain vote north of the border.

Ms Sturgeon claimed the Government was not taking Scotland's position "remotely seriously".

But Theresa May said she had been tasked to "secure the right deal for the whole of the UK". Ahead of a meeting today with leaders in Cardiff, the PM warned: "We will not agree on everything."

It came as a new poll showed 51 per cent of Scots do not want a second independence vote.



Holding on to power... leaders

THERESA May attends church after her US trip — and doesn't need a helping hand back home.

The PM was seen being grasped by President Trump last week. She went hands-free with hubby Philip in her Maidenhead constituency yesterday.

Reports suggested Mr Trump took her hand as he is frightened of stairs.

Mo can go — Pages 8 & 9



Hands off PM

CRACKDOWN ON FOREIGN AID WASTERS

By **LYNN DAVIDSON**, Whitehall Correspondent

THE UK's foreign aid department should be axed, one of its former ministers claimed yesterday.

Grant Shapps slammed the "out of control" £12billion-a-year spending and called for the Foreign Office to take over its responsibilities. He said officials had a "worrying" tendency to "shovel cash out the door".

Mr Shapps said he was proud of our aid for the world's poorest and backed ex-PM David Cameron's commitment of 0.7 per cent GDP for aid.

But he argued not all the money was being "spent wisely".

£12bn
a year spent
on foreign aid
— 0.7% of
income

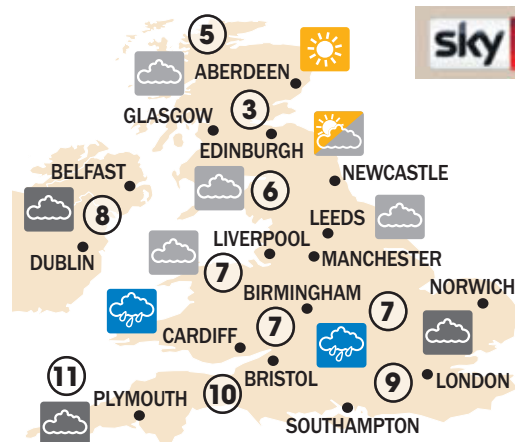
Assange in US hint

JULIAN Assange said he may still go to the US — but only if he gets reassurances over charges.

The Wikileaks chief had pledged to leave London's Ecuadorian embassy if whistleblower Chelsea Manning was pardoned.

He is exiled there to avoid extradition over a rape allegation. Assange was asked yesterday if he'd keep his pledge now she has been pardoned.

He had not rule out going "under certain circumstances" but said "the ball is in the court of the US Justice Department".



sky NEWS HD

WEATHER with
NAZANEEN GHAFAR



TODAY: Dull and cloudy across much of the UK, patchy drizzle across England and Wales, rain for Northern Ireland, brighter and drier in Scotland.

TONIGHT: A cloudy night for most with rain pushing eastwards, tending to ease off to the south and east giving intermittent rain.

TOMORROW: Wet, windy morning across northern and western areas with spells of heavy rain. The rain will ease later, leaving showers for the rest of the day. In Northern Ireland and southern/eastern parts of England it will be largely cloudy with some showers possible.

TUE 12°



WED 10°

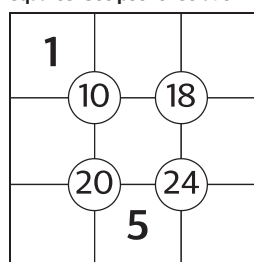


THU 11°



SUJIKO

To play, enter numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so each circle's total equals the sum of the 4 adjacent squares. See p39 for solution.



PUZZLES: PAGE 39

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Today's birthdays

HAPPY birthday to: The Night Manager's **Olivia Colman**, 43, pictured, singer **Phil Collins**, 66, actress and political activist **Vanessa Redgrave**, 80, Stoke City footballer **Peter Crouch**, 36, American Hustle star **Christian Bale**, 43, pictured, and actor **Gene Hackman**, 87.